

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 038335
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD:LGR
APPROVED BY EA - RICHARD HOLBROOKE
EA - MR. HEGINBOTHAM (DRAFT)
S/S - RGAMBLE

-----190351 106878 /66

P R 190011Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 038335

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, MY, US

SUBJECT: ASEAN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH MINISTER MUSA HITAM

1. MALAYSIAN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER MUSA HITAM IN
FEBRUARY 17 TALK WITH EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE
HOLBROOKE OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT HE PARTI-
CULARLY HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING OUR CURRENT VIEWS

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ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN POLICY. HE SAID THAT THE GOM'S
IMPRESSION HAD BEEN THAT WE HAD LACKED A POST-VIETNAM
SOUTHEAST ASIAN POLICY AS SUCH. HE THOUGHT THAT OUR
POLICY NOW NEEDED REASSESSMENT IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT, AND
NOT IN THE "MILITANT SENSE" THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED OUR
EARLIER VIEW OF THE AREA. IN PARTICULAR, HE THOUGHT IT
WAS AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR A US-ASEAN DIALOGUE. HE

SAID THAT ASEAN CONTACTS WITH THE EEC, JAPAN AND CANADA WERE NOW PROCEEDING IN A MORE FORMALIZED WAY. WHEN THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN MANILA PERHAPS A MORE DEFINITE TIME COULD BE PROPOSED FOR U.S. CONTACTS.

2. HE DESCRIBED THE ASEAN INTEREST IN AN "INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP" RATHER THAN AID, AND SAID THAT ASEAN WAS "MORE SOLID THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE BE THOUGHT". IT HAD A LOT OF POLITICAL WILL BEHIND IT TO BEGIN WITH, BUT NOW, SOME PRACTICAL PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE. HE THEN

ALLUDED TO THE "BROADER POLITICAL-MILITARY ASPECTS" OF ASEAN. HE SAID ASEAN MEMBERS DID LIKE TO PLAY DOWN THIS ASPECT OF THINGS, BUT THAT THERE DID EXIST ON THE BILATERAL LEVEL BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBERS, UNDERSTANDINGS ON WHAT COULD BE DONE, PARTICULARLY SHOULD MILITARY INTERVENTION IN MEMBER STATES BE REQUIRED.

3. MUSA THEN REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT THE U.S. MIGHT SEEK NORMALIZATION WITH THE SRV. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE AT THE COST OF OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS. HE RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER ANY ECONOMIC PROGRAMS FOR VIETNAM COULD BE LOOKED AT IN THE "TRIANGULAR" RELATIONSHIP OF SOUTHEAST ASIA-US-THE SRV, SUGGESTING AS AN ILLUSTRATION THAT A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR THE SRV MIGHT PROMOTE PREFABRICATED HOUSING PRODUCED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. IN REPLY, HOLBROOKE LOOKED AT THE U.S. ROLE IN SOUTH-
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EAST ASIA IN A BROAD HISTORICAL OVERVIEW. FROM THE JAPANESE COLLAPSE UNTIL 1975, THE U.S. PLAYED AN EXTRAORDINARILY ACTIVIST ROLE, WITH TROOPS AND PROGRAMS VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE EXCEPT MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE. THAT ERA IS OVER. ALSO, THE PERIOD OF POST-VIETNAM TRAUMA AND WATERGATE IS ALSO OVER, AND WE ARE GOING TO RETHINK OUR POLICIES TOWARDS SOUTHEAST ASIA.

5. THIS PROCESS HAS NOT REALLY STARTED YET, HE ADDED, BUT THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE CLEAR. WE SUPPORT ASEAN, AND WILL NOT TURN OUR BACKS ON IT. THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN AN ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER. WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THE REGION, INCLUDING AMONGST OTHER THINGS COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS. REGARDING ASEAN-US CONSULTATIONS, NOW THAT U.S. HAS CONVEYED PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS, THE BALL IS IN THE ASEAN COURT. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE HAD SOME SENSITIVITY ABOUT EMBRACING ASEAN TOO CLOSELY, FEARING TO EMBARRASS IT WITH TOO GREAT ATTENTION. BUT WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO SUCH CONSULTA-

TIONS.

6. HOLBROOKE ASKED THAT MUSA CONVEY TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER THESE PRELIMINARY OUTLINES OF OUR THINKING. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A WHILE BEFORE WE WERE ABLE TO TURN OUR FULL ATTENTION TO ASEAN QUESTIONS. WE MUST FIRST DEAL WITH OTHER PRIORITIES. IN THE MEAN-TIME, WE WOULD NOT WANT THE WRONG IDEA (OF DISINTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA) TO GET ACROSS. MINISTER MUSA HITAM PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND UNDERTOOK TO GO A STEP FURTHER, SAYING THAT HE WOULD "MAKE

SURE" THAT THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS SET A FIRM DATE FOR THE PROPOSED US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS AT THEIR APRIL MEETING.

7. COMMENT: MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL AND UPBEAT. MUSA
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HARTMAN

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PAGE 01 STATE 038335
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN,JR.
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN,JR.
S/S-AWOTTO

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R 250100Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 038335

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT STATE 038335 ACTION KUALA LUMPUR INFO SINGAPORE
BANGKOK MANILA HONG KONG VIENTIANE TOKYO USUN PARIS
JAKARTA LONDON DTD 19 FEB.

QUOTE

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HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: WSSHEPARD:LGR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0669
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770224/aaaaavhz.tel
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3274291
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH MINISTER MUSA HITAM
TAGS: PFOR, MY, US, XC, ASEAN, (MUSA HITAM), (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)
To: KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac5bf2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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